

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 00420 231132Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 NSC-05 DODE-00
CIAE-00 PM-04 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /046 W
-----231216Z 015765 /22S

O R 231059Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3877
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 420

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV PINT, PFOR, DA, US
SUBJECT: ELECTIONS CALLED

FOR EUR ASSTSEC HARTMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

REF: A. COPENHAGEN 0291
B. COPENHAGEN 230
C. COPENHAGEN 4909, 30 DEC 1976

1. BEFORE A SPECIALLY-CONVENED SESSION OF PARLIAMENT LAST NIGHT,
JANUARY 22, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN
DISSOLVED
THE CHAMBER AND SET GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

2. JORGENSEN'S DECISION WHICH WAS NOT UNEXPECTED (SEE REFTELS)--
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WAS BASED ON HIS INABILITY TO OBTAIN SUFFICIENT SUPPORT FROM PARTIES
OF THE CENTER-RIGHT FOR A FOUR-ELEMENT PACKAGE.
THESE ELEMENTS CONSISTED OF LEGISLATION PRIMARILY DESIGNED TO BETTER
THE
COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC SITUATION AND CONSISTED OF MEASURES TO (1) REDUCE
UNEMPLOYMENT; (2) ASSURE THE CONTINUATION OF THE AVAILABILITY OF LOW-
COST HOUSING; (3) INTRODUCE NEW TAXES; (4) ACHIEVE A NEW MULTI-

YEAR DEFENSE AGREEMENT.

3. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WILL PROBABLY BE RETURNED TO GOVERNMENT AS THE RESULT OF THE NEW ELECTIONS AND US INTERESTS IN DENMARK WILL NOT BE SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED.

4. WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT US CURRENT AND IMMEDIATE INTERESTS IN DENMARK? WE WOULD LIKE THE DANES TO PROCEED WITH THE F-16 PROGRAM AND WORK OUT AN ACCEPTABLE DEFENSE AGREEMENT. BOTH WILL BE ISSUES--BUT MINOR ONES--IN AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN WHICH WILL FOCUS ON THE DANISH ECONOMY.

5. THE ELECTIONS WILL PROBABLY MEAN THAT DANISH ACTION ON THE F-16 LETTER OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE WILL BE DELAYED...BUT THAT IT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE EXECUTED. DANISH DEFENSE MINISTER ORLA MOLLER, IN THIS PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY, WILL BE LESS FORCEFUL IN PUSHING DANISH PROBLEMS WITH U.S. ABOUT THIS PROGRAM. FURTHER MOVEMENT ON A NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT WILL BE SUSPENDED UNTIL LATE FEBRUARY BUT A MONTH WILL STILL REMAIN BEFORE THE PRESENT AGREEMENT EXPIRES MARCH 31.

6. BASIC DANISH FOREIGN POLICY COMMITMENTS SUCH AS NATO WILL NOT BE PUT IN QUESTION AND THE COUNTRY'S BASIC PRO-US STANCE WILL NOT BE AFFECTED.

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